

Press Room



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CALIFORNIA SENDS STRONG MESSAGE TO DRUNK DRIVERS

December is California's Drunk & Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month

Sacramento, Calif.— Timed to coincide with the state's annual Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month, law enforcement agencies statewide will conduct a concentration of sobriety checkpoints statewide to deter impaired driving and remove offenders from the state's roadways. Their message – Designated driver or patrol car? Pick your ride.

Alcohol-related fatalities have climbed in California for the fifth consecutive year. This has prompted the State to dedicate funding toward anti-DUI enforcement. The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BTH), have allocated more than \$4.7 million in grants to police departments to conduct sobriety checkpoints in 2005, including the upcoming winter holiday periods, and Labor Day.

In 2003, 1,445 people were killed and 31,337 were injured in alcohol-related crashes in California, compared to 1,416 fatalities and 32,041 injuries in 2002.

In observance of Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month, the OTS and CHP, along with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and the California Restaurant Association, encourage Californians to celebrate responsibly and use a designated driver.

Here are some common sense tips for enjoying the holiday season safely:

- Always have a designated driver on-hand whenever alcohol is served.
- Never serve alcohol to minors. California has a zero tolerance policy that will be enforced.
- Talk to young people about the dangers and consequences of impaired driving.
- Provide non-alcoholic beverages at holiday celebrations.
- Think about the evening in advance. Decide on your choice of transportation alternatives before you celebrate.

Note: Please consider posting the enclosed non-alcoholic drink recipes on your station's Web site during the month of December in observance of California's Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month.

* Statistics based on California Highway Patrol 2003 provisional data.